



AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH - SEPTEMBER EVENTS 2014
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SEPTEMBER 2014 EVENTS CALENDAR – AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

African Heritage Month September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31. Miss Guinea North America 2014 The Fillmore Silver Spring – Call 240- 425-3948 Southern African Community Reunion	1. Southern African Professionals, Entrepreneurs and Business Owners meet & Greet	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
7. Southern African Community Picnic Roots to Glory Presents: African Trunk Show	8. African Heritage Month Proclamation Ceremony	9.	10.	11.	12. Sierra Leone Empowerment Network Conference	13. African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA) WALK-A-THON CALL: 301.565.0420
14.	15.	16.	17.	18. Immigration Relief Measures to Nationals of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone Currently in the United States briefing from USCIS at the Silver Spring Civic Building	19. U.S. Department of Health 2nd U.S. Conference on African Immigrant Health	20. East County Community Recreation Center Health Expo 3310 Gateshead Manor Way, Silver Spring, MD 20904
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26. African Poetry Night	27. PANAFEST Silver Spring Civic Center (1pm – 10pm)
28. Free Community Health & Wellness Expo – contact 301.768.9807	29.	30.				



Panafest
Montgomery County USA

5th Annual Festival's Theme:
I ♥ African Heritage Unity

SAT., SEP. 27, 2014

GhanaProNet Labor Day Picnic – August 30th

GhanaProNet is hosting a Labor Day Picnic on Saturday, August 30th, from 2p.m. to 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun at Rock Creek Park, Park Area 009, Washington DC. This is a FREE EVENT!

Bring your children, friends, colleagues, neighbors, a date, a partner, or a roommate! It's all about getting out of the house and relaxing. Enjoy the warm weather in its last phase of the season! Relish the taste of an outdoor grilled hot dogs, burgers, chicken drumsticks, and kebobs by a specialized chef! Chuck it down with an ice cold beverage or juicy fruits and melons! Games have been selected to suit everyone's taste. For the pensive minded, relax with a friendly game of ludo, oware, chess, or spades. If being stationary is not your way of unwinding, then you can look forward to an active game of soccer, volleyball, frisbee, or croquet. Does humor relax your mind and soul? Then join in the fun of egg walking or the thrill of tug of war. Raffle tickets will be drawn and prizes awarded.

Miss Guinea North America 2014 – August 31, 2014

Miss Guinee North America is brought to you by NIMBA Entertainment Inc., under the leadership of its founder and president Hawa Barry – Diallo a former supermodel from Guinea .The pageant was created to help young Guinean women in the US pursue their educational dreams, achieve personal growth, rediscover and take pride in their Guinean heritage, thus laying a strong foundation for them as future leaders of the Rep. of Guinea. Mission: The Miss Guinea North America Pageant will develop and promote national leadership among young Guinean women. The competition provides scholarship opportunities that allow state delegates to pursue and achieve their educational, professional, and personal goals. Products: The Miss Guinea North America pageant produced by NIMBA Entertainment Inc. celebrates scholastic achievement in all disciplines, and believes that education is the key to lifelong success. The Miss Guinea North America Organization wants to ensure that all delegates as well as the national title winners will receive scholarships that will advance their educational opportunities.

Southern African Community Events – August 29, 30, 31, September 1 and 7, 2014

Last year, SACU hosted the Southern African Union, the first coming together of Southern Africans in the Washington D.C metro area. The events last year consisted of a party and picnic in Montgomery country Maryland. After the success of last year's events and positive feedback from the Southern African community, SACU will once again host a weekend that aims to celebrate Southern African heritage and once again, bring together our communities through "Southern African Reunion 2014". This year, events include the party and picnic again. We have also added a Southern African Fashion Show and a Professionals Networking Breakfast to appeal to various members of the Southern African Community. We hope to see many Southern Africans attend this event and support SACU. The events planned are as follows:

FRIDAY: Fashion Show, Civic Center Silver Spring, 6-10 pm

SATURDAY: Family Fun Day Picnic, Valley Mill Special Park, 10-7pm

SUNDAY: Flag Party, Tatoo Bar, 10 – 2 am

MONDAY: Professionals Networking Breakfast, Marriott Hotel Silver Spring, 10-12 pm

Roots to Glory Presents: African Trunk Show – September 7, 2014

Each year, thousands of African and Caribbean Americans make the decision to trace their ancestral roots by DNA. For some, it's difficult and emotional while for others, it serves as a final destination from the journey traveled hundreds of years ago by their ancestors. Finally, they are now able to put closure to the question of "who am I" and "where did I come from?" Many African Americans long for a direct connection to the country and village their ancestors were forcefully taken as slaves. The need to identify with a place called home like the Irish or Italian Americans is extremely important, hence the big leap in the increase of DNA testing. Once the test is concluded and the results are revealed, the need and urge to travel to their new found home becomes a burning desire. The mission of Roots to Glory Tours (RTG) is to bridge the gap by guiding, introducing and being a part of the experience of discovery and reconnection for African Americans as they embrace their long lost families. Walking in the communities, mingling with the locals, getting to know the people truly satisfies something deep in their souls, strikes a chord of ancestral memory and breeds a sense of oneness. Igniting the sense of belonging and connection with a place and the people where their family once lived, laughed and loved is our goal at Roots to Glory Tours. We pride ourselves in being there every step of the way as they discover their history, learn about their origin and experience their culture. It is our belief that the glory and exhilaration that follows after each visit is life changing.

The African Heritage Month Proclamation Ceremony – September 8th, 2014

The African Heritage Month Proclamation Ceremony is the opening event with County Executive Ike Leggett issuing the Annual Proclamation of African Heritage Month. The event is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building; 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring MD 20910. This year's theme is: "The Role of the Diaspora as the Social-economic, Development, and Civil Society Bridge Builders"

African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA)-WALK-A-THON – September 13, 2014

The African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA) is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. AWCAA was established in 2004 by a coalition of African immigrant women health professionals in order to address disparities in awareness, prevention and access to healthcare for African immigrant communities that face cancer and other life threatening illnesses. The group has grown to encompass healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs and concerned individuals dedicated to eliminating these disparities within the Washington metropolitan area, the continent of Africa and beyond. Membership to AWCAA affords African women the opportunity to learn more about each other's culture, work on diverse projects like the annual medical missions to various African countries. Interaction among members brings a bond of friendship and sisterhood, that goes beyond our monthly meetings. Africa is a continent and with changing times, it is important to strengthen our connections and enhance our understanding of each other. The distinguished founding members were: Ify Anne Nwabukwu, Cecilia Morah, Mabel Enwemnw, Ph. D, Gladys Azinge, Rose Ezeamakam, Patience Nzegwu, Ginika Ukpabi, Adeola Akindana, Felicia Buadoo-Adade and Teresa Ofong. These professional women were all pioneers and visionaries who dedicated themselves to the mission of AWCAA.

Sierra Leone Empowerment Network Conference – September 12-13th, 2014

The Sierra Leonean Empowerment Network (SLEN)--launched in July 2013--aims to build a sustainable network of Sierra Leonean professionals through mentoring, knowledge sharing and networking among Sierra Leoneans of diverse socio-economic and professional backgrounds. Sierra Leone is located on the West Coast of Africa and is one of the smallest countries in the world both geographically and in population. In the 90s, the country suffered a devastating ten year civil war, which lasted between 1991 and 2001. An important part of Sierra Leone's recovery is the establishment of an active and thriving professional network. SLEN contributes to this by supporting and empowering both Sierra Leoneans and non Sierra Leoneans who are committed to professional development within the Sierra Leonean community.

East County Community Recreation Center Health Expo – September 20, 2014

3310 Gateshead Manor Way, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Health Expo for families with demos like Zumbatronics, Yoga, Kid Fit 101, Hip Hope Dance, Taekwondo. Adult demos like Senior Fit, Yoga, Zumba, Line Dancing, and Spin demos. Free blood pressure checks, 2 mile power walk explosion and more. Participating: Step-n-Sweat Fitness, Zumba, Holy Cross, Senior Fit, , Yoga with Enjay, Jessie's Soul Dancers, Taekwondo, Kid Fit 101, Hip Hop Dance, and Chinese Folk Dance. Families will have an opportunity to speak with representatives of: Washington Adventist Hospital, African American Health, East County Regional Services Advisory Board, MCPS Nutrition Program, Radio Station 104.5, MC Health and Human Services –Aging and Disability Services, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, Child Care Assistance, Medical Assistance, Public Health Services, and Income Support, Amerigroup, Kariah Healthcare Solutions LLC – diabetes, Montgomery County Solid Waste Division, Impact Silver Spring - Leadership development and community engagement, Maryland Park Police – bike safety, Phi Beta Sigma – sponsoring Johnson's Dentistry, and voter's registration, Fitness Forever – body fat composition testing, East County Advisory Committee, East County Parents Circle, Dynamic Conditioning Fitness – general nutrition. Radio Station 104.5 school supplies and giveaways. Call 240-777-8090 for more information.

U.S. Department of Health – Conference on African Immigrant Health – September 19-21, 2014

The Office of Minority Health Resource Center (OMHRC) and African-serving organizations in the United States, are hosting the 2nd United States Conference on African Immigrant Health to enhance the capacity of community- and faith-based organizations to address health disparities among African immigrants and refugees (African Diaspora).within the United States

Conference Purpose:

USCAIH 2014 will build on the success of the previous US Conference on African Immigrant Health and:

- Provide updates of health trends and best practices in addressing health disparities among African immigrant and refugee communities in the U.S.
- Apply a health behavior and behavior change framework to examine health behaviors specific to the African immigrant and refugee community determined by culture, migration and integration that lead to positive or negative health outcomes.
- Explore the intersection between health behavior, provider competence and access to care to bring to light trends and interventions with promising success in

addressing health disparities in the African immigrant and refugee population in the U.S.

- Bring together health and diaspora leaders, including individuals, organizations, agencies or institutions, interested in and capable of supporting research and development activities that focus on holistic interventions in African immigrant and refugee communities.

Conference Objectives:

- Provide an update of health trends in specific areas of health disparities prevalent among African immigrant/refugee communities.
- Explore best practices in data collection specific to the African Diaspora.
- Establish collaborators to pool local and national resources, support networking and knowledge sharing among African immigrants and refugees.

Conference Outcomes:

- Share selected promising practices used to address health disparities among African immigrants and refugees.
- Make data collection recommendations specific to organizations serving African immigrants and refugees.

**African Poetry Night brought to you by Tayitu Cultural Center
- September 26, 2014**

The mission of Tayitu Cultural Center is to preserve and promote Ethiopian Arts and Culture through the performing Arts, to act as a resource to Ethiopians in the Diaspora by celebrating Ethiopian Arts and Culture and enhancing understanding of the Ethiopian arts and culture through teaching its history, celebrating accomplishments. In serving this mission, the TCC strives to build a community for Ethiopian to share their ideas and experiences to promote cultural awareness to the Ethiopian community and beyond. The TCC strives to provide leadership through programs that enhance advocacy, values, and customs. Through these efforts, the TCC is committed to helping Ethiopians develop the leadership skills needed to take into their communities to promote and share the Ethiopian Culture. Overall, the TCC serves the entire Ethiopian community to share, educate, and promote Ethiopian culture.

The Pan African Cultural Festival – PANAFEST – September 27, 2014

Organized by the ACCDF (All Cameroonian Cultural and Development Foundation, Inc) in collaboration with the African Affairs Advisory Group in Montgomery county, MD, the fifth annual Pan African Cultural Festival is part of a series of events commemorating September as African Heritage Month in Montgomery County. This annual event is held at the Silver Spring Civic Plaza at One Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The festival is designed to showcase the rich and diverse cultures of African countries, provides a unique opportunity to celebrate the heritage and showcase the cultures of Africans as we foster collaboration within our local communities. The African Heritage Month recognizes the African Union day and the critical relationships between the United States and African nations. This is an outdoor event to attract the vibrant and active community in Montgomery County. The festival will include live cultural performances by country representative groups, live performances by African artists, arts & craft exhibits, and a taste of exotic African cuisine. **Vendor Registration Form:** Contact: (301) 379-9111
